

Our team consists of some of the smartest, creative, and most talented people I have come to know. I am truly lucky to know these women and have them in my life. When the term “Girl Powered” comes to mind, I think of hard working women who aren't afraid of new challenges. “Girl Powered” women are women who, despite being in competition, help others without hesitation. We do this because in the end, we're in this together. When “Girl Powered” comes to mind, I think of my team and how we work together through the highs and the lows. Girl Powered can mean many things, but to me it means family.

When our team works together, I can only describe it as powerful. Everyone is constantly included and their ideas are considered throughout the process of building, programming, and competing. Our team strives to have members who have equal opportunities for all of our teammates. As women, we understand the struggle of being put in a box just because of our gender. So when anyone has a new or interesting idea, we gladly listen and refuse to negatively comment. We love the diversity in our group, whether it be in interests, religion, or ideas. Our team believes that diversity brings new ideas to the board and we welcome them gladly.

Learning our roles as a team hasn't always been easy. We have argued over who is better fit for certain roles. Despite the disputes, each teammate gets an equal opportunity to pursue any position they choose. When our team is together, I can't express how positive the atmosphere is and how powerful we can be when we work together. We have truly created a whole different world in our team. A world where you have the freedom to suggest anything you come up with without the fear, rejection, or judgment. Because, we know we get enough of those things in the outside world. To be able to say this with such passion, I know that our team is a spot-on definition of “Girl Powered”.

Our girls are not only a team in the vex fields, but in school and home as well. We have all known each other for at least five years, and it shows in our vex team. We laugh almost all the time with each other, we're there when times get dark and there when times are most bright. We can always depend on each other and that's why we excel in our vex team. Whether we could be winning or losing we never fail to encourage and support our teammates. We as a team know the effects of the outside world can affect how practice goes. We understand that not every day can be as positive as we would like. But it's the attitude you give towards that suffering teammate that can truly change their world.

It's not just the teammates that make a team, there are our role models who inspire our team to work to the best of our abilities. Our VEX role model would have to be hands down our coach Alissa Keil. Mrs. Keil is an inspiring woman, she is a mother of three, a teacher to astronauts, college students, and rowdy middle schoolers. Most importantly, she is the coach to the Kennedy VEX Team. This woman works day in day

out to make sure her students needs are met. She is the first teacher who has told me that when I fail I can try again. That astonished me, I thought if you fail that's it. You are labeled a failure and there is nothing you can do about it. But Mrs Keil taught me otherwise. She taught me that you can try your absolute best and fail. But it's whether you pick yourself back up and try again that makes you a successful person. Mrs. Keil is the real glue to our team.

In conclusion, our teammates are extraordinary, talented,intelligent, close knit, independent women who support and encourage their fellow competition. Our team is the definition of "Girl Powered". We are Girl Powered.